

The impact of pavement parking on footway accessibility

Kate Dickins, Senior Policy Officer (Inclusion)

We make it easier for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.

- The Disabled Citizens' Inquiry (2023)
 - Working with disabled people to identify barriers to walking and wheeling and how they can be overcome
- The Path to Inclusive Footways (2023)
 - Report commissioned by the LGA on footway accessibility in England
 - Barriers to footway accessibility, their impact and how they can be address



Pavement parking

Pavement parking is a major barrier to footway accessibility, both directly and indirectly.

73% of disabled people would find a prohibition on pavement parking useful for them to walk or wheel more

- **Sustrans Disabled Citizens' Inquiry 2023**



Pavement damage

Pavement parking damages footways, making them less accessible particularly for disabled and older people.

89% of disabled people would find footways that are level and smooth helpful for them to be able to walk and wheel more

- Sustrans Disabled Citizens' Inquiry 2023



Prioritisation

Repairing damage caused by pavement parking diverts money away from other footway priorities in a context of already stretched budgets.

Up to **20%** of footway budgets in some council areas is estimated to be spent on repairing damage caused by pavement parking

- DfT Pavement Parking Restrictions Impact Assessment



Indirect costs

Inaccessible footways can lead to other costs for councils that impact several budgets, not just highways.

53% of local authorities reported a cut or freeze in highways budgets in 22/23

- Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance Survey Report 2023



Traffic Regulation Orders

TROs are the only method councils outside London have for enforcing pavement parking, but they are expensive and time consuming to implement.

£5,835 is the estimated cost of implementing one permanent TRO

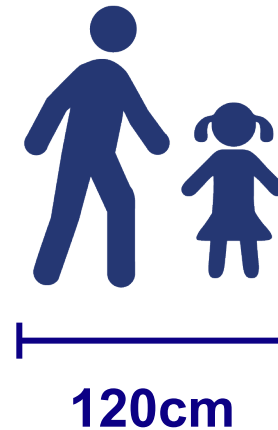
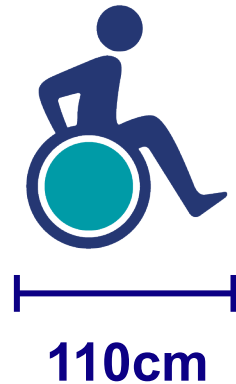
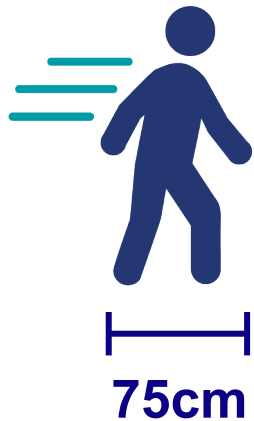
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



Narrow footways and street clutter

Narrow footways and footways with street clutter on them can become completely impassable for all users if pavement parking occurs.

Minimum footway space needed by different users:



Accessibility mapping

Pavement parking can hold back other efforts to improve footway accessibility, such as accessibility mapping.

77% of disabled people would find an app or website where disabled people can share information, experiences and rate routes or destinations useful for them to walk or wheel more

- **Sustrans Disabled Citizens' Inquiry 2023**



What needs to happen next?

- We need to extend a London-style default ban to the rest of England.
- This is a cross-party issue, and it needs a cross-party solution.
- Could all parties commit to tackling pavement parking in their manifestos?



**Thank you for
listening**

Kate.Dickins@sustrans.org.uk